

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
KANSAS CITY DIVISION**

DANIELLE PULLUAIM,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	4:20-cv-00700
)	
v.)	
)	
WAKEFIELD AND ASSOCIATES, INC.,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

COMPLAINT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, DANIELLE PULLUAIM, by and through her attorneys, SMITHMARCO, P.C., and for her complaint against the Defendant, WAKEFIELD AND ASSOCIATES, INC., Plaintiff states as follows:

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. This is an action for actual and statutory damages for violations of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (hereinafter “FCRA”), 15 U.S.C. §1681, et. seq.

II. JURISDICTION & VENUE

2. Jurisdiction arises under the Fair Credit Reporting Act 15 U.S.C. §1681, et. seq., and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 28 U.S.C. §1337.

3. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

III. PARTIES

4. DANIELLE PULLUAIM, (hereinafter, “Plaintiff”) is an individual who was at all relevant times residing in the City of Raytown, County of Jackson, State of Missouri.

5. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was a “consumer” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681a(c).

6. WAKEFIELD AND ASSOCIATES, INC., (hereinafter, “Defendant”) is a business entity engaged in the collection of debts from consumers within the State of Missouri. Defendant’s principal place of business is located in the State of Tennessee. Defendant is incorporated in the State of Missouri.

7. At all relevant times Defendant was a “person” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681a(b).

IV. ALLEGATIONS

8. Credit reports, as alleged in this pleading, are “consumer reports” as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681a(d).

9. On or about June 15, 2018, Plaintiff filed a Voluntary Petition for Chapter 7 Bankruptcy (hereinafter, the “bankruptcy petition”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Missouri, commencing bankruptcy case number 18-41628-can.

10. At the time Plaintiff filed her bankruptcy petition, she owed a debt to CEP America. The debt was for medical bills incurred by Plaintiff prior to Plaintiff’s bankruptcy filing.

11. Plaintiff scheduled the aforementioned debt in her bankruptcy petition as an unsecured debt.

12. At the time Plaintiff filed her bankruptcy petition, she owed no other debt to Defendant.

13. At the time Plaintiff filed her bankruptcy petition, she had no other accounts with Defendant.

14. On or about October 1, 2018, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Missouri entered an order discharging Plaintiff, thereby extinguishing her liability for the aforementioned debt owed to Defendant.

15. In addition, at the time of Plaintiff's discharge, there were no assets in the bankruptcy estate from which to make any distribution.

16. Given that Plaintiff's bankruptcy discharge resulted in no assets for distribution, any unsecured debts that were incurred prior to the filing of Plaintiff's bankruptcy petition are considered discharged regardless of whether the debt was specifically listed in Plaintiff's bankruptcy petition schedules of creditors.

17. Defendant was effectively put on notice that any debt incurred prior to the filing of that petition was discharged.

18. Defendant was aware that any debt incurred by Plaintiff prior to June 15, 2018 that was assigned to Defendant for collection, was discharged in Plaintiff's aforementioned bankruptcy.

19. At no time since October 1, 2018 has Plaintiff owed any debt to Defendant.

20. At no time since October 1, 2018 has Plaintiff had any accounts open with Defendant.

21. At no time since October 1, 2018 has Plaintiff had any personal credit account with Defendant.

22. At no time since October 1, 2018 has Plaintiff had any personal business relationship with Defendant.

23. Given the facts delineated above, at no time since October 1, 2018 has Defendant had any information in its possession to suggest that Plaintiff owed a debt to Defendant.

24. Given the facts delineated above, at no time since October 1, 2018 has Defendant had any information in its possession to suggest that Plaintiff was responsible to pay a debt to Defendant.

25. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, despite being cognizant of the facts as delineated above, Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit file from Trans Union LLC, a "consumer reporting agency" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. §1681a(f).

26. At no time on or prior to April 10 or 11, 2019 did Plaintiff consent to Defendant accessing her individual and personal credit report.

27. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, despite being cognizant of the facts as delineated above, Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report without a legitimate business reason to do so.

28. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, despite being cognizant of the facts as delineated above, Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report impermissibly.

29. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, despite being cognizant of the facts as delineated above, Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report without first informing Plaintiff of its intent to do so.

30. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Defendant reviewed Plaintiff's private information.

31. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Defendant impermissibly obtained information relative to Plaintiff's personal and individual credit accounts.

32. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Defendant impermissibly obtained information relative to Plaintiff's payment history on her individual credit accounts.

33. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Defendant impermissibly obtained information relative to Plaintiff's credit history and credit worthiness.

34. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Plaintiff's private financial information was published to Defendant.

35. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, unknown employees, representative and/or agents of Defendant viewed Plaintiff's private financial information.

36. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Defendant impermissibly obtained personal information about Plaintiff, such as her current and past addresses; date of birth; employment history; and, telephone numbers.

37. On or about April 10 and 11, 2019, at the time Defendant accessed Plaintiff's individual and personal credit report, Plaintiff's personal information, as delineated above, was published to Defendant.

38. Defendant's conduct, as delineated above, is a violation of 15 U.S.C. §1681b(f)(1).

39. As a result of Defendant's conduct, as delineated above, Plaintiff has suffered actual damages in the form of financial and dignitary harm arising from the Defendant's review of her personal information and her credit information and an injury to her credit rating and reputation. Furthermore, Plaintiff will continue to suffer the same harm for an indefinite time in the future, all to Plaintiff's great detriment and loss.

V. JURY DEMAND

40. Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, DANIELLE PULLUAIM, by and through her attorneys, respectfully prays for Judgment to be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant as follows:

- a. All actual compensatory damages suffered;
- b. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for Defendant's violation of the FCRA.
- c. Punitive damages;
- d. Plaintiff's attorneys' fees and costs; and,
- e. Any other relief deemed appropriate by this Honorable Court.

Respectfully submitted,
DANIELLE PULLUAIM

By: s/ Paul T. Krispin, Jr.
Attorney for Plaintiff

Dated: September 1, 2020

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